

# BOOKS AND AUTHORS

## LITERARY CRITICISM AND BOOK NEWS

A Popular History of the War on a Monumental Scale—Its Economic Aspects—A Surgeon-Philosopher's Books.

**THE WAR.**  
**THE GREAT WAR.** A series of Non-Partisan Volumes on the Causes of the War, the Progress of the War, the Conduct of the War, and the Peace. By George H. Allen, Jr., and Henry C. Wadsworth. Edited by George H. Allen, Jr. and Henry C. Wadsworth. Vol. I. Causes and Progress. Vol. II. Conduct of the War. Vol. III. The Peace. Philadelphia: George H. Allen, Jr. and Henry C. Wadsworth. 1915. 12mo. Pp. 320. \$1.50. Vol. I. Causes and Progress. Vol. II. Conduct of the War. Vol. III. The Peace. Philadelphia: George H. Allen, Jr. and Henry C. Wadsworth. 1915. 12mo. Pp. 320. \$1.50.

**WITH THE RUSSIAN ARMY.** Being the Experience of a National Guardsman. By Robert H. McCall. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1915. 12mo. Pp. 320. \$1.50.

**ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE WAR.** National Rights, National Duties, and National Obligations. By George H. Allen, Jr. and Henry C. Wadsworth. Philadelphia: George H. Allen, Jr. and Henry C. Wadsworth. 1915. 12mo. Pp. 320. \$1.50.

However ephemeral the value of much of the mass of war literature that has been the light during the last year, however unreliable the statements of many other books written for immediate partisan effect, we have already two or three excellent works on the diplomacy that ended in the struggle, so far as the governments of the belligerent nations have seen fit to make public or suppress the official documents. And now there comes to us, in this initial volume of what promises to become a monumental work, the first undertaking that will deal with the war in all its aspects, nationalistic, economic, diplomatic and military. Pres-

**Edith Wharton's**  
 account of her remarkable experiences with the French army, "In Lorraine and the Vosges," is in the October Scribner

In the front line of trenches, in bombarded towns.

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**EVE DORRE**  
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An unusual, whimsical, delightful American girl in France, who grew up there, and an enchanted chateau in Burgundy, which was the scene of her romantic honeymoon.

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E. P. DUTTON & CO., 681 5th Ave., N.Y.

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 otherwise known as "Bessie," was Felix's best friend during the long months of his mysterious search through the streets of New York. Masie was the daughter of Otto Kling, who kept the Fourth Avenue antique shop, in

**FELIX O'DAY**  
 A Novel of New York  
 By F. HOPKINSON SMITH  
 Illustrated. \$1.35 net, postage extra.  
 CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

A charming heroine—  
 A manly hero—  
 A stirring plot—

There is true romance in this new Owen Johnson novel

**MAKING MONEY**  
 By OWEN JOHNSON

Author of "The Salamander," "Stover at Yale," etc.

Young love and youthful ambitions are the moving forces in Owen Johnson's exciting novel, probably his most successful work

Published by STOKES



THEODORE DREISER.  
 ("The Money Master")



ETHEL SIDGWICK.  
 ("Duke Jones")



SIR GILBERT PARKER.  
 ("The Money Master")

**SIR JAMES MURRAY**  
 A Tribute to the Memory of the Great Lexicographer.

The new volume of the Oxford Dictionary ("Standard-Standard"), about to be published, will contain the following note:

Sir James Murray died on the 26th July, 1915. His great wish that he should live to finish the Dictionary on his eightieth birthday, in 1917, has not been fulfilled; the unceasing labor of three and thirty years has ended when less than a tenth part of the work remains to be done. Almost within a week of his death he was still hard at work, showing, as Dr. Bradley wrote of a visit made to him, "not a little of the zeal and mental lucidity that he remembered of old." In the preceding months, while barely convalescent from an illness that seemed to bring him to the gates of death, he had prepared, and in the appointed date handed with the editor's characteristic sagacity and resource, the section is a piece of his work of which he might be proud.

It has always been the rule that each of the editors should be exclusively responsible for the portions of the Dictionary issued under his name. The sections in the hands of Dr. Bradley, Dr. Craigie, Mr. Onions, and their staffs, will not be affected. But Sir James Murray at the beginning laid the lines and drew the plan; in the prosecution of the work, when it became clear that it must be shared, his amazing capacity for unrelenting labor enabled him to take more than an equal part, and the volumes produced by himself show characteristic excellences which cannot be exactly matched, though they may be rivaled by merits of another kind. He will not write the last pages, but more than that of any other man his name will be associated with the long and arduous task of the Dictionary has been produced.

### TO-MORROW'S TOPICS

A Philosophical Surgeon's Opinions and Speculations.

MICROBES AND MEN. By Robert T. Morris. New York: Dutton, 1915. 12mo. Pp. 320. \$1.50.

A SURGEON'S PHILOSOPHY. By Robert T. Morris. New York: Dutton, 1915. 12mo. Pp. 320. \$1.50.

These brilliant *to-morrow's* of the first and second volumes of a "To-morrow's Topics Series," irresistibly provoked the unconventional thought that the author must have had a world of fun with himself in writing them!

Indeed, on almost every page there are the unmistakable marks of confidence and satisfaction. These do not by any means indicate a cock-sure, dogmatic conceit, but rather the far more impressive qualities of authority, sincerity and expert knowledge. Yet, with these characteristics, the pleasure which Dr. Morris undoubtedly had in writing the volume is multiplied many times to his readers.

It is always a pleasant and a grateful thing to find what is ill-termed a "professional" man applying himself to literary and philosophical pursuits, and bringing thereto the scientific discipline of his vocational life. True, there is, or was, a law which pronounced malice upon him who should use the terms of one art for the description or discussion of another, than which no other known ordinance, human or divine, has been defied, ignored and violated with greater unanimity, enthusiasm and persistence.

Instead, therefore, of austere rebuking him we must gratefully commend the Dr. Morris for treating of practically all the interests of the human race in the terms of his own profession. In the doing of this there is no pedantry nor obscurity. Though often technical, the author is always lucid and convincing, even to the layman.

In "Microbes and Men" human life and activities in their multitudinous phases are explained and demonstrated, as a large flock of rosy-cheeked, sometimes a clinic, in bacteriology. This is done with an ingenuity which amazes and delights, but which does not so far dazzle as to blind us to the substantial logic and basic truths which lie behind the deft and nimble play of thought. And upon what an array of humanity's phases does he touch! Alcohol and the Super-man, marriage and Mexico, cosmetics and Treitschke, the scientific basis for literary criticism and the regulation of population. Through all runs a fine and sympathetic vein of humor, punctuated with occasional smashing of idols—chiefly modern ones—and flashes of demonstrative revelation.

Above all is the apostleship of sanity as against abnormality and decadence, and of optimism against pessimism. The difference between the two is described as largely physiological.

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Beneath all the inconsistencies of such a character there is an admirable consistency of treatment. The man is never in revolt against society; he merely follows his own impulses, unable to reason from cause to consequences. He has no theories of a "higher" moral law; he runs after youth and beauty as a puppy runs after chickens. In the same uncalculating, impulsive way he pursues material success in the business world and attains it, to see the results of all his weaknesses converging in the great crash. It is his art, which has kept itself alive with only intermittent nourishment from him, that gives him, sobered and calmed down by the storms of his early years, his final chance of rehabilitation.

Long as it is, the book is crowded. There is a constant change of scene and interests. From the little Illinois town of the "genius" birth to the art school in Chicago and the life of its students; thence to New York and the struggle for a footing, with the youth's first glimpses of the city's artistic and professional life, of keen, alert, cultivated men and women. Then his progress from an advertising agency to the offices of a great Philadelphia publishing house, and back to New York again as the editorial manager of an even more ambitious venture—all this throbs with the busy life of the day, and is closely linked to actual enterprises and real leaders. There is more than a

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Nietzsche was happy in his youth until he became a pathological character and an ill man through poisonous influence, upon his protoplasm, by sensitizing toxins. The toxins of microbes sensitize the protoplasm of a pessimistic philosopher in such a way that it vibrates in a minor key. His protoplasm is quite human in its reaction to the environment. The peculiar character of vibration in physical brain-cells excited by toxin of the colon bacillus. . . . Let us compare Nietzsche and Stevenson. If the tubercle bacillus had accidentally dominated the situation with Nietzsche he might have penetrated us with transcendent sunshine. If the colon bacillus had accidentally dominated the situation with Stevenson, he might have left our bruised souls quivering in the ditch.

And so upon cells and ganglia and he will depend the issues of war and peace, of capital and labor, of man and woman, drug habits, the domestic servant problem, civil service reform, judicial procedure, tax reform, Socialism, and indeed every private and public interest of humanity. Of course, it is all a transcendental elaboration of the ancient principle of *mens sana in corpore sano*; but how transcendently it is elaborated! Not all will agree with the author. Some will deplore what they will regard as extravagant materialism, and others will equally condemn him for fantastic idealism; and both will be wrong. The true appraisal of these remarkable books is that they are earnest in purpose, weighty with authority, and fascinating in style. Though you may not always agree with them, you will find them a rage against the discussion of the single and double standards of sexual morality—it is impossible not to see in them an enrichment of our literature and an informing, stimulating and inspiring contribution to the advancing thought of the day upon topics which most intimately concern the present and perpetual welfare of the race.

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### THE MONEY MASTER.

THE MONEY MASTER. Being the Curious History of Jean-Jacques Barbillon, His Loves, His Trials, and His Fate. By Sir Gilbert Parker. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. 12mo. Pp. 360. \$1.50.

Sir Gilbert is so completely master of the field he has made his own that he cannot fail of his effects. What is more, through him, we too, have become familiar with the country of the habitant and its people—men and women both. So, if there be no venture into new pastures here, the return to a lovable, simple folk and their shortcomings, to a picturesque, quiet village in a hospitable landscape, is welcome. The great man of a small, important, vain, weak, kind-hearted, successful, that is the Money Master, Jean-Jacques Barbillon, who boasts that he is a philosopher, and dares even to confound the new cure of the cumulative effect of the whole. He is a philosopher of civilization rather than of life; the phenomena, the symptoms, are more to him than the causes, which he accepts, than the verities, which he leaves un-

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## REVIEWS AND COMMENT

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THE "GENIUS." By Theodore Dreiser. 12mo. Pp. 320. \$1.50.

Mr. Dreiser takes his text from the marriage service: "Wilt thou love her, comfort her, honor her, and keep her in sickness and in health; and forsaking all others keep thee only unto her so long as ye both shall live?" The "genius" makes the solemn promise and breaks it, not once, but habitually. He has temperament—the artistic temperament—but no character, no will power for good or evil. Beauty lures him, and he follows blindly, a cad and a bounder, but never a cave man.

In the supreme moment, when he should have dominated the situation and taken his own ruthless, he temporizes, allows himself to be tricked, delayed, confused; and the "protective instinct of organized society" defeats him. He loses all that he has insecurely made his own by his unstable talents and hard work—and he loses the woman as well. This man, one supposes, is meant by the author as the antithesis of his "Titan," the genius strong enough to challenge the moral law at all points and defeat it. Hence the quotation marks in the title.

This is a prodigiously long novel—over 700 closely printed pages. Mr. Dreiser is a master of the ponderous realism that piles fact upon fact, detail upon detail, without ever losing control of the cumulative effect of the whole. He is a philosopher of civilization rather than of life; the phenomena, the symptoms, are more to him than the causes, which he accepts, than the verities, which he leaves un-

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